



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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March 23, 2005

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, 1st Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby returning without my approval S.386, R-16, an Act:

TO AMEND ACT 632 OF 1980, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MEAL THAT EACH MEMBER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL RECEIVE FOR IN-STATE OR OUT-OF-STATE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL.

I am vetoing this bill because it allows the Williamsburg County School Board members to use local education funds to pay for additional personal compensation to board members. I believe those funds are better used to pay for critical needs in the classrooms of Williamsburg County schools.

According to current law, Williamsburg County School Board members are already allowed to give themselves a per diem of up to \$100 per meeting. The Chairman may receive a per diem of up to \$150 per meeting. In 34 school districts in our state, school board members receive no compensation whatsoever for their service. In those school districts that do compensate their board members on a per-meeting basis, the median compensation per meeting is \$75 dollars. Therefore, not only are Williamsburg County School Board members already compensated for their service, they are compensated at a higher amount than their fellow school board members around the state.

Senate Bill 386, R-16 would add to the compensation already provided to board members by giving them daily meal reimbursements of \$34 for in-state and out-of-state travel. In the FY 2005-2006 budget bill recently passed by the House of Representatives, the daily in-state meal reimbursement for state employees is set at \$25 dollars and for out-of-state travel at \$32 dollars. Again, the Williamsburg County School Board members are compensated at a higher amount than state employees for meal reimbursement by this bill.

Considering that many school board members receive no compensation for their service, I believe the local funds allocated in this bill to increase compensation to these school board members is more appropriately directed to where it is most needed – Williamsburg County classrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford